

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:RRMARTIN:MEP
APPROVED BY EB - MR. THOMAS O. ENDERS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016626

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: IEA LONG TERM COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 13806

1. IN TALK WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 22
DEPARTMENT LEARNED THAT JAPANESE DELEGATION MAY GO TO IEA
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING JANUARY 29-30 WITH INSTRUCTION TO
RESERVE ITS POSITION ON THE LONG TERM PROGRAM IF THE
CANADIANS, AS EXPECTED, SEEK AN EXCEPTION TO CHAPTER V OF
THE AGREEMENT.

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL WE WISH TO ASSURE THAT NEGOTIATIONS
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ARE COMPLETED SMOOTHLY AND ON SCHEDULE. WE ARE AWARE OF

JAPANESE CONCERNS RE CANADIAN POSITION. HOWEVER, AS THE COUNTRY MOST CLEARLY AFFECTED BY THE CANADIAN DECISION WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE CANADIAN CASE AND ARE SATISFIED THAT THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM IS REAL. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CANADIAN PROBLEM IS SUI GENERIS AND ON THAT BASIS WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CANADIAN EXCEPTION. A JAPANESE RESERVATION COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AGREEMENT. IT COULD ADVERSELY INFLUENCE THE POSITION OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND START THE PROCESS OF UNRAVELLING WHICH WOULD BE IN NO ONE'S INTEREST AND MUST BE AVOIDED.

3. FROM THE CONVERSATION HERE IT APPEARS THAT JAPANESE MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF THE CANADIAN PROBLEM. THEY APPARENTLY ARE NOT CONVINCED BY CANADIAN ARGUMENTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS AND ARE ALSO SKEPTICAL THAT CANADIANS ARE INDEED COMMITTED TO PROJECT-BY-PROJECT APPROACH OR THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO COMPENSATE FOR RESERVATION ON CHAPTER V BY ADDITIONAL EFFORTS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE AGREEMENT.

4. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE CANADIANS HAVE MADE RECENT APPROACHES IN IEA CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION ON CHAPTER V. IT APPEARS THAT THEY MAY HAVE FAILED TO CONVEY CLEARLY TO THE JAPANESE THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR PROBLEM. IN WAKE OF BOTH CANADIAN DEMARCHE AND SOUNDINGS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS REQUESTED IN REFTEL DEPARTMENT WISHES TO DETERMINE WHETHER JAPANESE EMBASSY DESCRIPTION ACCURATELY REFLECTS CURRENT GOJ THINKING. WE NEED TO KNOW NATURE OF ANY REMAINING JAPANESE CONCERNS. WE ALSO NEED A CLEARER IDEA OF THEIR INTENTIONS AT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING NEXT WEEK. ROBINSON

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